

E! contd

or totally salified in the form of an alkali metal salt or in the form of ammonium salt]; the weakly acidic function of the monomer containing it being a carboxylic acid function, and the monomer being selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid and maleic acid, partially or totally salified; [and] the neutral monomer being selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl acrylate, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, [and] 2,3-dihydroxypropyl methacrylate, and an ethoxylated derivative, with a molecular weight between 400 and 1000, of each of these esters, the anionic polyelectrolyte being crosslinked and/or branched with a diethylenic or polyethylenic compound in a molar proportion, expressed relative to the monomers used, of from 0.005% to 1%; and wherein 30% to 90% of the monomer units which comprise the anionic polyelectrolyte have a strongly acidic function.--

Claim 28, line 2, change "30%" to --50%--.

Cancel claim 32.

Claim 33, line 1, change "32," to --25,--.

Claim 34, line 1, change "32," to --25,--.

Claim 42, line 3, change "or" to --and--.

Claim 43, line 11, cancel "the optional".

41

E